

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A tap changing assembly for power transformers having vacuum interrupters each of which is associated with a radio interrogated surface wave sensor capable of detecting whether the respective vacuum interrupter opens circuit in a timely manner. The sensors are interrogated by an interrogating unit transmitting high-frequency signals to the sensors and associated with a monitoring circuit responsive to signals received by the interrogating unit for signalling the status of the vacuum interrupter.

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